

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-7. These formal drawings replace the original informal submitted drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 26-55 are currently pending in the present application, including independent claims 26, 50, and 51. Independent claim 26, for instance, is directed to a film comprising a blend of a thermoplastic polymer and nanoparticles. The nanoparticles have a diameter of less than about 500 nanometers and are modified with a metal ion to form modified nanoparticles.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to due to the misspelling of "pultrusion." Applicants have corrected this error and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection. Previous claims 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Additionally, previous claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants submit that the presently presented claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Previous claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohrbaugh et al. (Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0151634) in view of MacDonald (Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0203009). Additionally, previous claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohrbaugh et al. (Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0151634) in view of MacDonald (Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0203009), and further in view of Tyson (Patent No. 5,705,216).

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections. Applicants filed the present application on October 16, 2003. MacDonald was published on October 31, 2003. As such, MacDonald is prior art only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Furthermore, MacDonald is subject to an obligation of assignment to Kimberly-Clark

Worldwide, Inc., who is also the assignee of the present application. As such, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), MacDonald may not be utilized in a § 103 rejection.

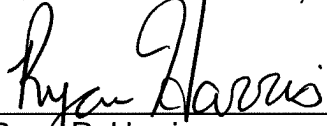
As a final matter, the provisional rejection of previous claims 1-8 over co-pending Application No. 10/686,933 (in view of 10/686,938 and 10/686,939) for obviousness-type double patenting is noted. Additionally, the rejection of previous claims 1, 8-15, and 18-21 over U.S. Patent No. 7,141,518 for nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting is noted. Applicants agree to submit terminal disclaimers for the above references, if necessary, at a time when the present application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner Sasan is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully requested,

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